



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President Proclaims September National Wilderness Month

TULELAKE, California— Lava Beds National Monument is home to amazing lava tube caves and the turbulent history of the Modoc War, but do you know it is also home to extensive wilderness? On October 13, 1972, two wilderness units (Schonchin and Black Lava Flow) totaling 28,460 acres were designated under public law at Lava Beds National Monument. Accordingly, wilderness currently represents 61% of the monument's total land area. The Lava Beds Wilderness is isolated, with the next closest wilderness area being the Mountain Lakes Wilderness, 45 miles to the northwest. The Schonchin and Black Lava Flow Wilderness areas were established to protect the geologic, natural, and historical significance of the area and are two of the few remaining wild volcanic environments in the western United States. Here, you can observe the subtle colors of the sagebrush steppe against black lava fields, and discover hidden wonders as you come upon islands of life created within a broken lava tube. In the southern part of the park, one can experience solitude among the pine and juniper which covers the volcanic buttes and craters.

"These two wilderness areas were some of the earliest founded in the country, coming just eight years after the establishment of the 1964 Wilderness Act," notes Mike Reynolds, Superintendent of Lava Beds National Monument. "Visiting the wilderness areas is a great way to show our appreciation for the far-sightedness of those who worked to protect our special places."

Lava Beds National Monument invites you to celebrate National Wilderness Month by spending time in the park's wilderness areas. There are multiple trails that can transport the visitor to a unique and wild experience. Wilderness resources allow visitors to explore and understand natural succession in a volcanic environment. The rugged caves and surface terrain create opportunities for adventure, while natural quiet and solitude can still be enjoyed due to low numbers of visitors in the wilderness.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8100, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe.

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